

In the last newsletter I showed you a picture of the old baseboard, ready for its new layout. With shops shut and those with on-line sales still operating (but with much of the stock not available because main suppliers are closed, I decided to see what I could achieve with the items I had in stock and what could be cleaned up. (People like Metcalfe have left their website with the stock listed, but with plans and sizes missing, so it has to be what is in my stock now).

First job was to link the two boards together, easy when both boards are blank, but linking boards exactly level when one has track and buildings and the other is bare is more difficult. The first stage was to remove the dowels, as the board had female ends, and using the same screw holes, replace them with Male ends (see below) and then put a touch of paint on the protruding end with almost dry (old) paint. (See second photo). The two boards are held together in the correct position, thus transferring the paint onto the new board.

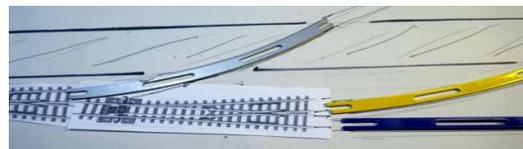


To achieve this I clamped a piece of 35mm x 35mm PSE timber across the two boards resting on the original track on the left hand board and a loose piece of track on the right hand board. By squeezing the right hand board upwards to the protruding wood and then using another clamp to squeeze the two boards together I was able to both make an indent in the new frame and leave a dot of paint which exactly located where the frame should be drilled to accurately locate the new dowel.



When the new dowel was fixed (with one screw to allow some adjustment), the female dowels were replaced on the original board.

After checking the alignment, the other two screws were tightened and track alignment checked again. With the boards level it was a matter of drawing out the layout of the track on the new board. This was done in the same way I always work. Firstly a rough sketch, showing both track and building locations, then following this up on wall lining paper at full size, using Peco's turnout templates for points and tracksetter formers for curves.





The thicker black lines show the position of the upper level of track (see image above). Bridges need to be hand-crafted for these two areas where rails pass under the upper track at a very oblique angle which will require quite considerable engineering.

Well, that's as far as I reached, but I am told that the rest is easy. Wiring up a digital layout only requires two wires!!!!

At home we have had fun. On Saturday morning I went into the shower and was out again very quickly. Due to low water pressure the electric shower, although allowing water through did not switch on the heater. It was reported to Wessex Water at 6am! Several villagers phoned us (not the water board) to check on why the pressure was so low. It took Wessex 2 days including a short closure of the A350, to solve the problem.

With the weather being fine I have been working in the garden, planting seeds in my veg. patch, cutting the grass and pruning the hedge. I also found an invasion of mole hills in my rear garden and heard about dropping a pickled onion into each hole with some additional vinegar. The following morning all three pickled onions were to be found neatly placed on top of the soil where they had been placed. I put them back down the hole with a top up of vinegar and I have not seen the onions or the moles in my garden since – but there are now several mole hills in the field at the end of our land.

With the weather turning wet it looks as though I will be wiring up the track and also painting the hall. I will keep you informed.

I have received a contribution from Barry Hollies which states that he is coming to terms with his situation and he has no time to get bored. He has a new pen-pal his great granddaughter, Isla, in the form of emails

assisted by her mum. Her younger brother Hugo, is train mad and his favourite words are tunnel and trains. So he has started a new project and is on a board 4ft by 2 feet (narrow end) You can see construction below.



Harry and Dave will be quite familiar with the building technique as Barry admits to pinching the idea from Harry many years ago. He also states "It does lift off as I will need access".

Ray (of TV Fame) is carrying on his exploits. He has been completing the school club's Whomping Willow tree. Its taken 20 hours in total plus plaster bandage and DAS clay. When in situ the branches will be able to move via pulleys which will "throw" a Ford Anglia from the tree!



At the clubhouse we have had our fire extinguishers serviced. I had to bring them out to the tables in the field and put them back again.

We have had problems each year with the servicing company so it will be a new company in 2021.

That is all for this edition, look after yourselves and if you have anything newsworthyP let me have it please, but send the photos as a jpeg, not part of the text.

Seep safe. Ron 29/04/2020